

# Court Appointed Special Advocate Newsletter

Superior Court of Arizona Maricopa County Juvenile Division  
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Vol. 5, Issue 6

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June 1999

## A CHILD'S VOICE IN COURT

### CASA OF THE YEAR

Maricopa County is proud to name volunteer Anne Donahoe as the 1999 CASA of the Year. Anne began her CASA career in 1986 and was among those graduating from the very first Orientation Training class in Maricopa. Anne has since served 8 cases involving 17 children. As a matter of fact, the third child on her first case was born to a mother who named the child after the case worker and Anne! Anne is also a mentor for the program. She will be honored at the CASA/FCRB Conference in June.

Anne has been a member of the FCRB since 1985, is on the Board of the Crisis Nursery, served on the Board for the Governor's Office for Children, and was a FCRB State Board Representative of the Child Welfare ad hoc committee. For the past 13 years, Anne has been diligent in her advocacy efforts, always current with training and has been flawless in reporting her miles and hours to the program.

The Maricopa CASA program honors Anne for her commitment to CASA and to dependent children and we thank her for making a difference.

### DEVEREUX/LA HACIENDA - PROFESSIONAL FOSTER CARE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

The Professional Foster Care Program was started in 1984 as a cost-effective family-based treatment. They serve children who are exhibiting emotional or behavioral problems due to issues attributed to dependency, delinquency, or adoption.

The staff are trained specialists who have extensive foster care backgrounds including assessment, treatment planning, case management, and family based services. The staff works with 45 licensed professional foster families. Our families reside throughout Southern Arizona

and serve 80-100 children, ages birth to 21.

### Program Highlights

The program develops an individualized treatment plan with measurable goals and objectives for each child. The goal for each child is to gain sound emotional and physical health, age-appropriate social skills, and to deal effectively with their problems. The program will enable them to successfully live within our community.

Professional foster families serve as the primary treatment setting. The La Hacienda foster care specialists provide training and 24 hour support to carry out the in-home portion of the treatment plan.

The treatment team meets quarterly and records progress and recommends length of time in care. The average length of stay is 12-18 months. The team actively works to transition children successfully out of care.

### Types of Children Best Served

Are willing and able to function within a family setting.

Have histories of severe physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or violence.

Are diagnosed with AD/HD, Depression, Learning Disabilities, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, or Chemical Dependency.

Exhibit behaviors such as, but not limited to, lying, stealing, enuresis/encopresis, poor socialization skills, difficulty in school settings, low self-esteem.

Are currently on medications and in the mental health system.

They **DO NOT** accept referrals for children who are actively psychotic or who are a danger to self or others.

-Continued on page 2

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**What is the difference between Professional and**

#### CASA Program Staff

Nancy Molever	506-5221
Laura Devany	506-4425
Leslie Blakley	506-4082
La Donna Moss	506-3930
Melissa Adomeit	506-3935
Shannon Childs	506-4415
Virginia Moore	506-4083



#### CASA Volunteer Mentors\*

Angela Ashley  
Anne Donahoe  
Margo Fitts  
Jackie Flowers  
Dana Gilroy  
Lynda Pederson  
Karen Tyrrell

Shannon Childs - Design/Editor/Production

Laura Devany - Co-Editor

**Regular Foster Care?** Professional Foster Care Providers receive more training, are the center of the treatment team, work off of a treatment plan for the child(ren), work with therapists, doctors, caseworkers, etc..in helping assess the needs of the child(ren). Working closely with those involved, Professional Foster Care Providers provide a family setting to assist in the Professional case plan for the child(ren).

**Do foster parents at La Hacienda follow a plan to adopt?** These foster parents **do not** follow a plan to adopt the Professional Foster child(ren). The goal of the providers is to provide a bridge to the next level of care. The providers do however, specialize in preparing children for adoption. They do not follow a plan to adopt themselves. If a provider decides to adopt a child in their care, they are supported. However, it is recommended that they work with an adoption agency.

**Who participates in treatment staffing?** The treatment team is lead by the Foster Care Specialist II and the Professional Foster Care Provider(s). The team involved revolves around what is recommended by the DES case plan. The team can be, but is not limited to the: CASA, Lawyer, Therapist, Special Friend, Biological Parents, Probation Officer, Caseworker or anyone, determined by the team, that can make a positive contribution to the child's future.

**Do your Foster Parents work with the family of origin?** Yes. If it is in the child's case plan to do so and the foster family agrees to do so prior to placement.

**Will your Foster Parents transport the child(ren) to visits with the biological parents?** Yes. The Foster Parents have made a commitment to transport the child(ren) to all activities including therapy and visitations.

**How long does it take your agency to place a child?** When there is a "match", a child will generally be interviewed and placed within a three-week period

**How many children are allowed in a household?** Most homes will not exceed three placements per household. However, they do have a few providers who have more than three placements.

**FAREWELL** After four years of service, four

cases which included 12 children, Mary Alice Aguilar is leaving the program. You will be missed Mary Alice.

Good-bye to Carol Salvatore who is leaving the program after more than a year as a CASA. You've done a great job with your case, the kids were lucky to have you. Good luck!

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES The follow

ing have been passed and are pending the Governor's signature.

### PREVENTION

**Child Abuse; Special Plates; Fund (Chapter #71-HB 2441)** Creates a special child abuse prevention license plate; license plates will cost \$25, of which \$17 will be placed in a fund administered by the Governor's Division for Children; monies will be used to promote primary child abuse prevention programs and increase public awareness.

**Healthy Families (Chapter #1-SB 1001; First Special Session)** Increases Healthy Families funding to \$4 million for FY 00 and to \$5 million for FY 01; current funding is at \$3 million.

**Health Start (Transmitted to the Governor 5/7-HB 2065)** Reinstates the Health Start Program, the voluntary outreach program for at-risk pregnant women, within the Department of Health Services; appropriates \$700,000 in FY 00 and \$1.2 million in FY 01.

### CHILD WELFARE

**Adoption and Foster Care Committee (Chapter #82 -SB 1114)** Establishes a 25 member Adoption and Foster Care System Improvement Committee to develop a foster parents and adoptive parents bill of rights and make recommendations to resolve impediments to the adoption of children in the state's care.

**Dependency; Permanent Guardianship; Termination (Chapter #81-SB 1109)** Makes technical corrections to the Model Court Legislation and permanent guardianship statute, also requires case plans for dependent children in the care of DES address the issue of placing siblings together and sibling contact.

**Expedited Adoption (Transmitted to the Governor 5/4-SB 1116)** Changes the adoption certification process for licensed foster parents and certain relatives; eliminates the interim placement report to the court and transfers the assessment components to the social study required for the final hearing; provides the social study for stepparents and relatives not previously involved with state agencies is not necessary unless ordered by the court; reduces certain time frames for finalizing adoptions; makes communication agreements between an adopted child, adoptive parents and a birth parent enforceable under specific conditions, but allows adoptive parents to revoke in person

-Continued on page 6

## CASA SPONSORED TRAINING

**June 9, 1999, 12:00-1:00, Adoption Subsidy Training-** Confused about Adoption Subsidy? Aren't we all...please attend an informative session addressing the difficult topic of subsidy. Lynne Krause from AASK will be answering our questions. Location: Juvenile Court-Durango, 3125 W. Durango, Phoenix, room 301. RSVP by 6-7-99 to the CASA office 506-4083.

**June 15, 1999, 11:00 - 1:00, Brown Bag Lunch with Judge Portley** - All CASAs are encouraged to attend this training session with Judge Portley to discuss non-specific case related issues. Location: Juvenile Durango, 3125 W. Durango, Room 474. Please RSVP to the CASA Office at 506-4083 by 6-11-99. Don't forget to bring your lunch!

## CONFERENCES

**June 4-5, 1999, Annual CASA/FCRB Conference, The Permanency Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together for Children** - You are an important piece of the permanency puzzle! Materials fee of \$35 will be charged to non CASA/FCRB volunteers. Location: Embassy Suites, Phoenix, Arizona. Sponsored by Dependent Children's Services.

**June 10-11, Men and Children...Strengthening the Bond, Male Involvement Conference - Men make a difference...** For more information contact Michelle Garner, 602-266-5976. Location: Mesa Amphitheater, Community & Conference Center, 201 N. Center Street, Mesa, AZ.

**June 24 -25, Family Centered Practice Conference '99** - The Fourth Annual Family Centered Practice Conference is an intensive, state-wide training and networking experience featuring nationally recognized experts in the field of family-centered services. Location: YMCA Leadership Center, 9940 N. 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona. 85021. For more information or sponsorship information contact Family Centered Practice Conference '99 at (602)759-9592, Fax (602)759-6799 or E-mail at: wendy@kc-a.com.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CASA Volunteer, Charlotte Rauchfuss, discovered through her assigned child's foster parents, a medication for bed-wetting. DDAVP is a nasal spray that seems to have worked wonders, although it costs about \$200 a bottle.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Sharon Kiedrowski on the birth of her first child, Ryan Michael who made his appearance on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

We need volunteers to take non-model court (Durango) cases. We have an abundance of these cases and they need CASAs. We know that we did a great job getting you excited about model court, but we've found ourselves with volunteers waiting for a model court cases at SEF while the Durango cases are piling up. If you are a new volunteer, let us know if you can take a Durango case. If your current case is slowing down, volunteer for a Durango case. If you are interested in short-term cases, we have a few that need courtesy CASAs over the summer months. **HELP**, please.

## COMMENDATIONS

CASA Volunteer, **LORI KIRK** is commended by the Foster Care Review Board for her continued support and diligence with her CASA child. Great job Lori!

Foster Care Review Board commends CASA volunteer, **JUDY PEIRCE** and the case manager for their efforts! Keep up the good work Judy!

Foster Care Review Board commends CASA volunteer **KATHY NORTON** and all the foster parents for their obvious devotion to this case. Great job Kathy!

CASA volunteer, **JUNE ANDERSON**, is commended by the Foster Care Review Board for her long time dedication to her CASA children. Way to go June!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!



Sherri Tinney	2	Roy Reynolds	13
Deborah Geringer	3	Celeste Bennett	16
June Anderson	5	Ray Cheroske	19
Uri Schumm	6	Shirley Polk	19
Jennifer Gadek	7	Suzanne Bradley	21
Brent Thomas	8	Dana Gilroy	24
Charlotte Rauchfuss	9	John Lare	24
Gwen Loving	9	Carolynn Delany	26
Jennifer Reed	9	Barbara Hanigsberg	28
Melanie Turrell	12	Betty Oves	28
Nan Garrett	29		



**RESOURCES***JUNE 1999*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Annual CASA/FCRB Conference- Permanency Puzzle Embassy Suites, Phx	<b>5</b> Annual CASA/FCRB Conference- Permanency Puzzle Embassy Suites, Phx
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Adoption Subsidy Training, 3125 W. Durango, room 301 RSVP by 6-7	<b>10</b> Men & Children- Strengthening the Bond Conference For Info call 602-266-5976	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Brown Bag Lunch w/ Judge Portley 3125 W. Durango, Room 474. RSVP by 6-11	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Family Centered Practice Conference 99' For info call 602-759-9592	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Peer Group Meeting with Angela Ashley	<p>Volunteer Mentors are holding monthly Peer Groups. If you would like to attend one of them please contact your mentor for upcoming dates.</p> <p>*If you have been a CASA for 2 years or more and would like to learn how you can become a mentor, please contact your CASA Coordinator. Volunteer mentors are not required to be assigned a case. This has recently been changed.</p>		

The following public and private agencies provide support services, literature, referrals, and/or counseling for children, adult survivors of childhood abuse, families of the abused or the abusers themselves:

**Child Help USA**, (800)422-4453, is a free hotline that offers crisis counseling, help in finding a local counselor or support group, and information for both adults and children who have been abused. This is not a reporting hotline, but they can provide information on how to report abuse.

**The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, (RAINN)**, (800)656-HOPE, operates a national sexual assault hotline which is a grassroots network of 760 rape crisis centers across the country.

**Peer Solutions Inc.**, POB 24148, Phoenix, (602)255-0942, works to assist the victims of sexual assault by helping them utilize the resources available and to reduce the probability of reoccurrence and harmful side effects. They aim to assist perpetrators in being more aware of the harmful impact of sexual coercion. Victim empathy and advocacy are emphasized and educational workshops and activities are linked with schools and the community.

**Center Against Sexual Abuse**, 2333 N. Central #100, Phoenix, (602)254-6400, provides sexual abuse prevention, intervention, treatment and violence prevention education to enhance safety and quality of life. Their crisis line is (888)446-2272 or locally (602)254-9000.

The **Arizona Bar Foundation's Webpage** for kids is up and running. It's site can be found at [www.lawforkids.org](http://www.lawforkids.org). Check it out, it's pretty cool!

Need information on **Fetal Alcohol Syndrom/Fetal Alcohol Effects**? Check out this web site - [www.fas.state.mn.us](http://www.fas.state.mn.us). This site includes tips on dealing with the symptoms.

## COMMON CASA SCENARIOS

**DES has accused a CASA volunteer of doing "case management."** According to DES policy, what are the duties of a case manager? Federal law requires case planning and a periodic review of the child's case to be completed by a case manager. Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) § 8 states specific instructions for case plans and contents. According to DES policy in the Children's Service Manual, Chapters 6, 10, and 12, case managers are responsible for the following tasks:

- Select the appropriate placement for the child.
- Arrange medical, educational and psychological evaluations.
- Hold case plan staffings every six months.
- Visit the child monthly.
- Visit the parent, relative or guardian monthly.

Provide the child's placement packet to the foster parent.

Enter payment information into the computer system.

Provide a CMDP medical ID card to the child.

Arrange transportation to parental visits.

Keep case records including court reports.

Hold placement selection and removal case conferences.

Assist foster parents with child care and respite services.

Develop the initial case plan.

Prepare reports for court and FCRB hearings.

Make special requests to the court about financial support from parents, visitation rights, change of custody, out of area travel, permission for major medical treatment or surgery, appointment of surrogate parent, permission for the child to marry or join the military.

**A DES case manager has complained that the CASA revealed information to the foster parent that should not be released.** What information is the foster parent allowed to have? ARS § 9-514 defines the legal basis for the information that is provided to a foster parent about the child. Arizona Administrative Code Rules (A.A.C.) R6-5-5823 through R6-5837 contain the duties, expectations, and rights of the foster parent. DES policy in the Children's Service Manual, Chapter 3, and 4, has determined foster parents have the following rights to:

Information regarding the child's medical condition, emotional problems, educational background, visitation plans with birth family, appointments, food preferences, activity preferences, history of neglect or abuse which may effect the child's behavior, previous foster placements.

Be notified of court and FCRB hearings.

Receive a copy of the case manager's report to the court by checking "yes" in the Interested Parties section of the Child Placement Summary (PC-011). This applies to children living in the home currently or within the past 6 months.

Ask the case manager before or upon placement of a child: Why is the child being placed? What is the child's legal status? What is the family situation? Where are the parents? Are the siblings? Will the parents visit? Is the child in good health? Are there any medical needs? Are there any school issues or needs?

Receive a case plan.

Be notified of case staffings.

-Continued on page 6

-Scenarios continued from page 5

**The foster parent or case manager asks the CASA to care for the child while the foster family goes on vacation. Can the CASA provide this service?**

According to DES policy in the Children's Services Manual, Chapter 8 and 14, state funded respite care can be provided when there are available respite foster parents. Specific rules are listed in A.A.C. R-5-5848 and R6-5-5849. Foster parents can receive up to 144 hours per home of paid respite care per state fiscal year. An additional 5 days per fiscal year may be approved by the ACYC District Program Manager for emergency situations. Respite care can be provided only by a DES/ACYF or DES/DDD licensed foster parent. A CASA is not a respite worker, but can take child in rare circumstances. A court order for the child to stay with the volunteer is required with all parties in agreement.

**A case manager has moved a child to a new home, separated siblings, and has not notified the CASA volunteer. The case manager states the unawareness of the need to notify or discuss the situation before the move occurred. What is the appropriate procedure?**

The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980, PL96-272 is the Federal law that controls child welfare services to children and families. It requires children be placed in the least restrictive environment. DES policy recorded in the Children's Services Manual, Chapter 8, states DES must complete an individual assessment of the placement needs of every child who requires out-of-home care. Siblings should be placed together whenever feasible. DES will minimize moves of children as much as possible. Unless an emergency

exists, a foster home placement change is made only after a case conference that includes all team members. Tribes must be notified of the placement change of an Indian child.

-Legislative continued from page 2

contact at any time; allows Children's Services line-item savings due to expedited adoptions to be utilized for contracted adoption services in FY 00 and FY 01; and appropriates an additional \$300,000 in FY 01 to assist in securing adoptive homes for children.

**Foster Care; Children's Rights (Transmitted to the Governor 5/4-HB 2105)** Provides that a child placed in foster care has the right to maintain contact with parents, family members, other relatives and former foster parents unless the court determines contact is not in the child's best interests; DES must establish policies and procedures with public input.

**Permanent Guardianship; Subsidy (Transmitted to the Governor 5/4-HB 2417)** Allows ongoing financial assistance to families who assume permanent legal guardianship of dependent children in foster care; appropriates \$105,000 in FY 00 and \$124,000 in FY 01. Not retroactive funding for past guardianship.



**CASA PROGRAM**  
**Juvenile Court Center**  
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